SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 286

PANIC IN THE SKY - PART 3 OF 4

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

CHARACTER SELECT

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
SUPER-FAST HERO

CHIP/LIGHT GAIA
KEY TO SAVING THE WORLD

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
WORLD HEROES

DR. EGGMAN
SUPER-SMART VILLAIN

THE STORY SO FAR...

THE BATTLE BEGINS

The Shattered World Crisis has reached its tipping point!

Dr. Eggman has kidnapped Chip and used his powers as the Light Gaia to summon the Gaia Colossus. The reactors in Eggman Land have pulled in almost all of the Dark Gaia energy from around the world. And now the Death Egg is en route to be powered by that evil energy, and will become unstoppable!

Sonic and the Freedom Fighters have launched a three-prong counter-offensive! Rotor pilots the damaged Sky Patrol in an attempt to delay the Death Egg. Sally leads the team into Eggman Land against countless Dark Gaia-powered badniks to stop the central reactor.

And Sonic faces off against Dr. Eggman in his most fearsome robot yet...

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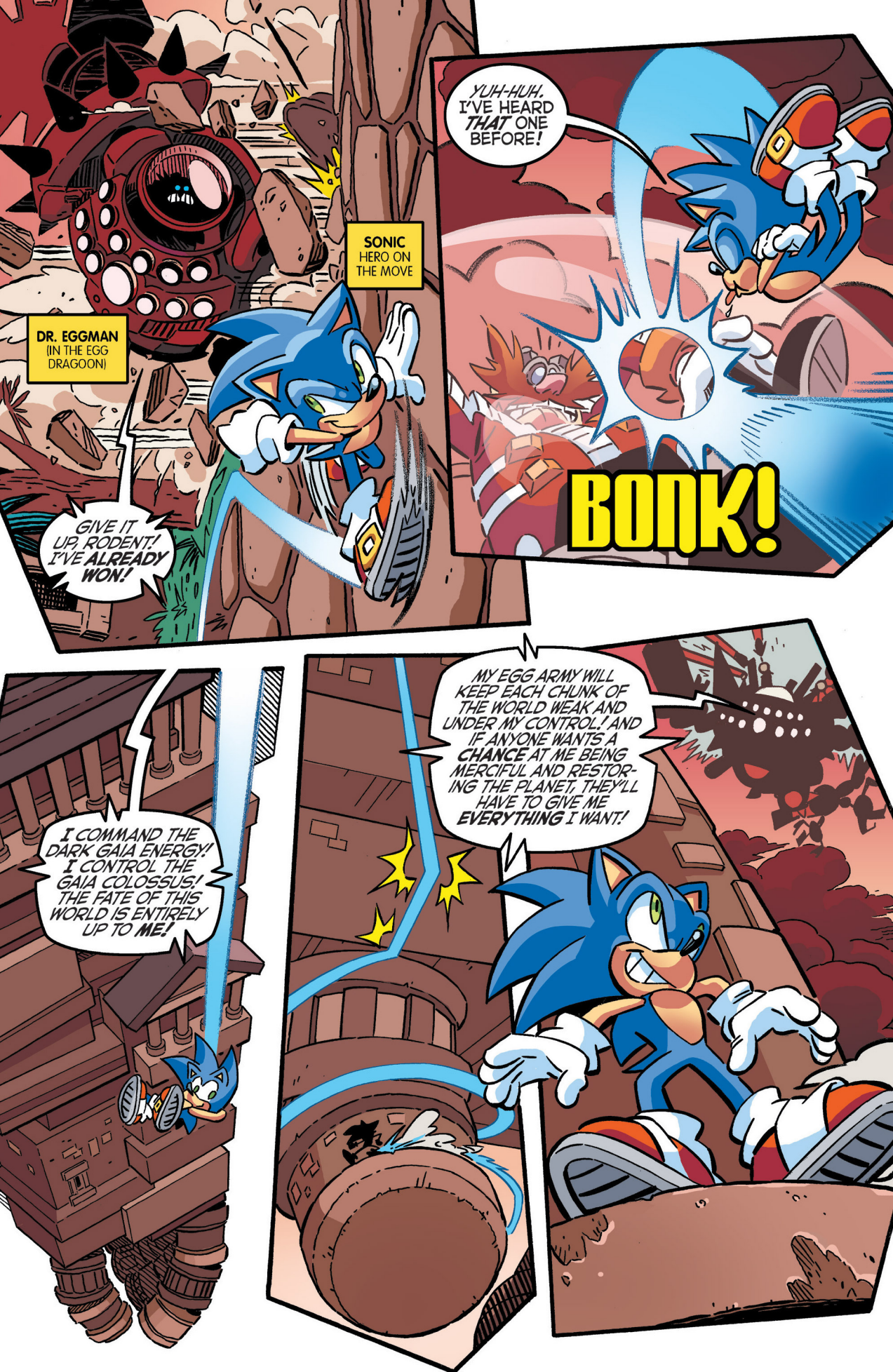
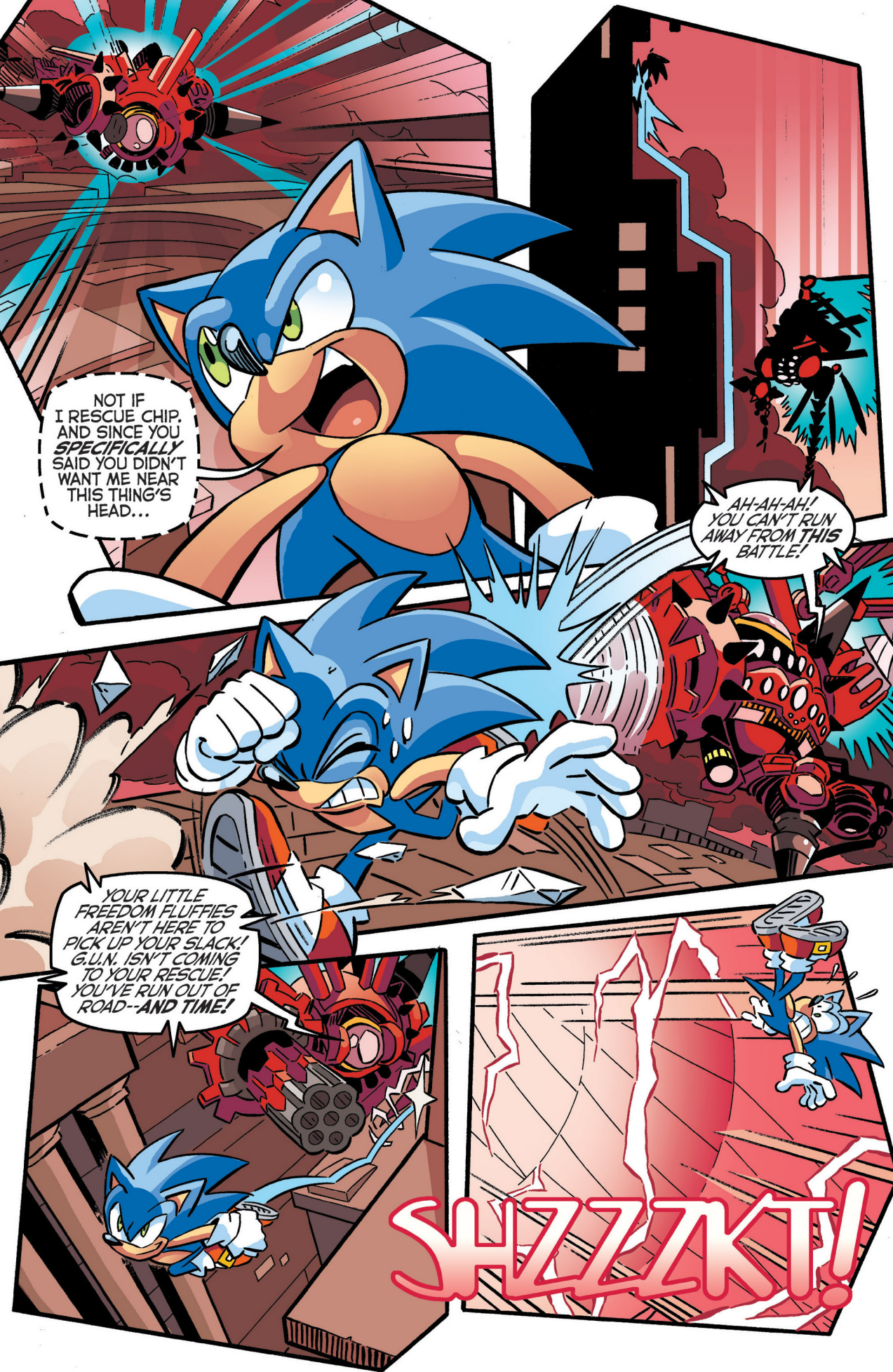
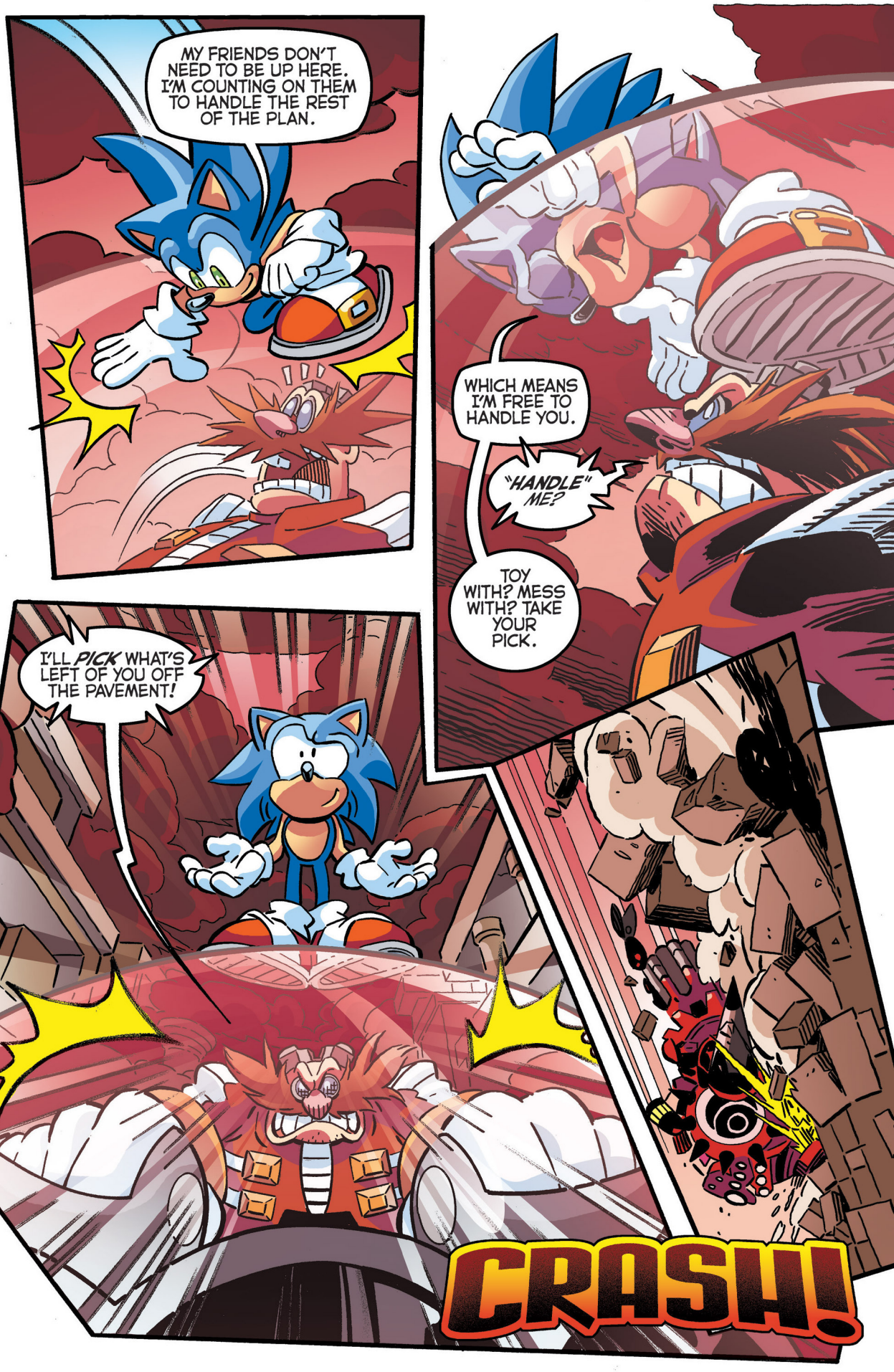
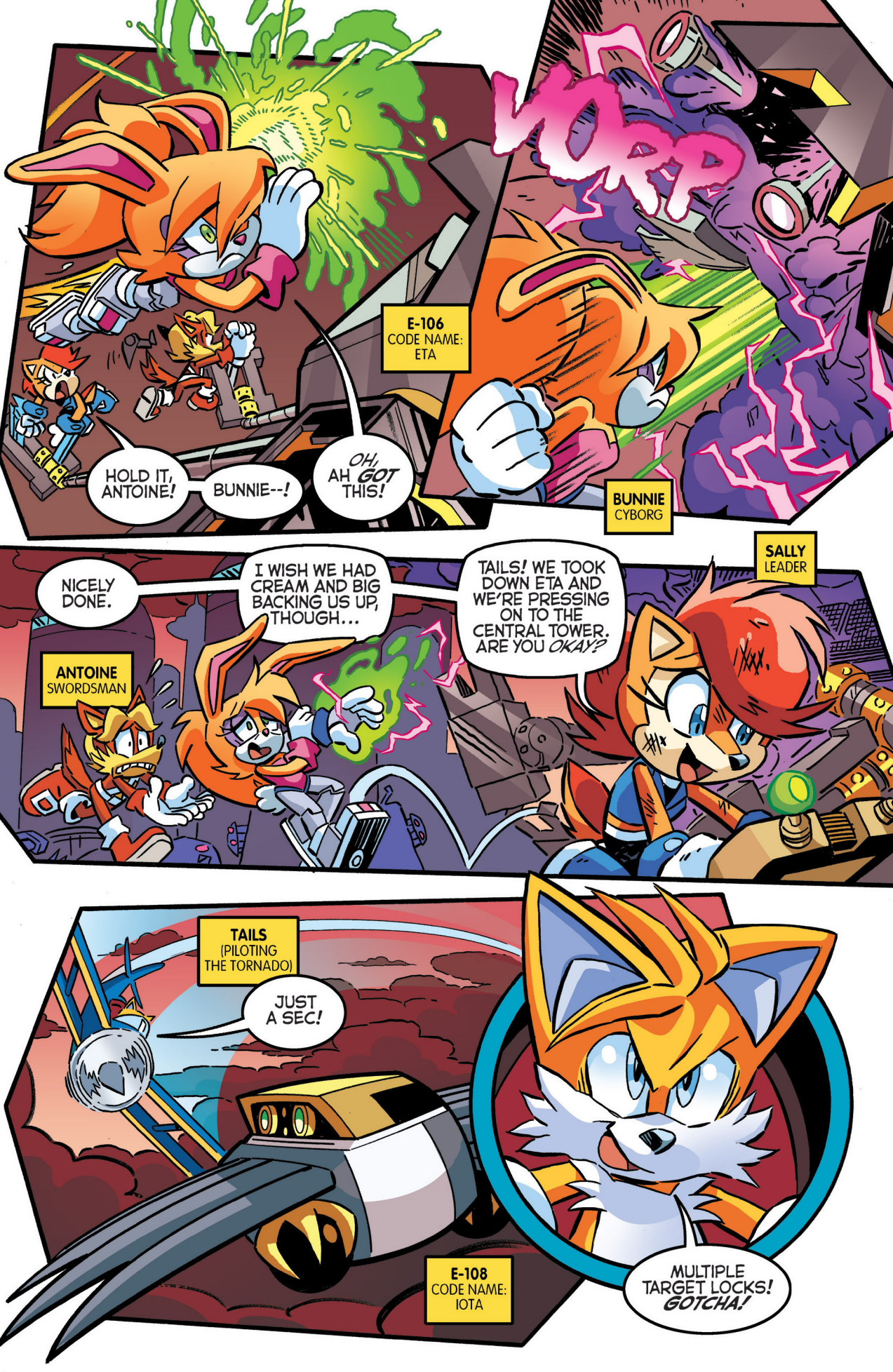
PART THREE: COLOSSAL CRASH

WRITER: IAN FLYNN•PENCILS: DIANA SKELLY (PGS 1-10), ADAM BRYCE THOMAS (PGS 11-20)
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN•COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA•LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN
COVER BY DAN SCHOENING AND LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO
BATTLE WITH THE EGG DRAGOON VARIANT BY TRACY YARDLEY
EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO•EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO•PUBLISHER AND CO-CEO: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO SANDRA JO AND MAI KIYOTAKI AT SEGA LICENSING

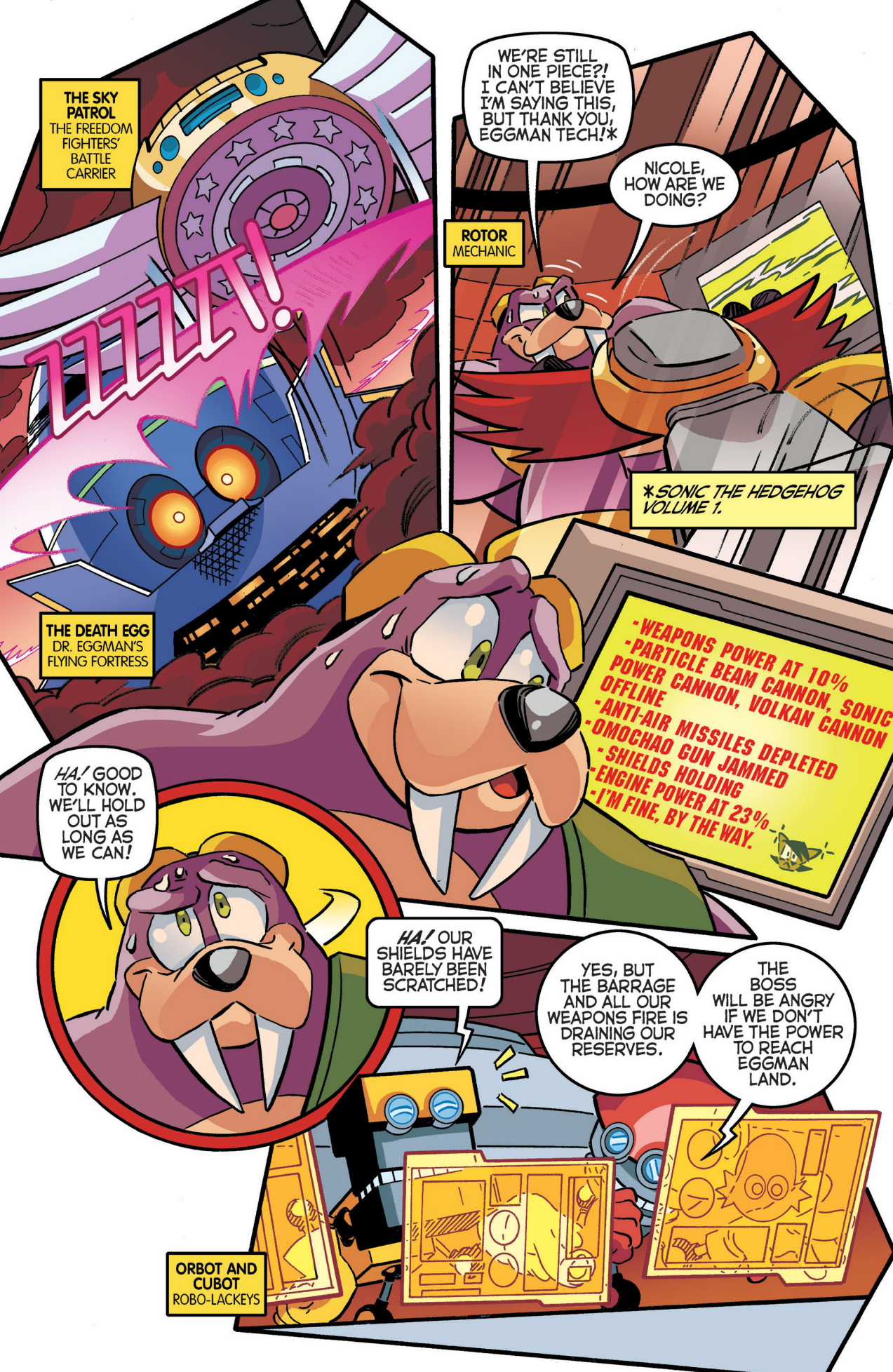

SONIC
HERO ON THE MOVE
DR. EGGMAN
(IN THE EGG DRAGOON)
GIVE IT UP, RODENT! I'VE ALREADY WON!
YUH-HUH. I'VE HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE!
BONK!
I COMMAND THE DARK GAIA ENERGY! I CONTROL THE GAIA COLOSSUS! THE FATE OF THIS WORLD IS ENTIRELY UP TO ME!
MY EGG ARMY WILL KEEP EACH CHUNK OF THE WORLD WEAK AND UNDER MY CONTROL! AND IF ANYONE WANTS A CHANCE AT ME BEING MERCIFUL AND RESTORING THE PLANET, THEY'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME EVERYTHING I WANT!


NOT IF I RESCUE CHIP. AND SINCE YOU *SPECIFICALLY* SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT ME NEAR THIS THING'S HEAD...
AH-AH-AH! YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM **THIS** BATTLE!
YOUR LITTLE FREEDOM FLUFFIES AREN'T HERE TO PICK UP YOUR SLACK! G.U.N. ISN'T COMING TO YOUR RESCUE! YOU'VE RUN OUT OF ROAD--***AND TIME!***
SHZZZKT!


MY FRIENDS DON'T NEED TO BE UP HERE. I'M COUNTING ON THEM TO HANDLE THE REST OF THE PLAN.
WHICH MEANS I'M FREE TO HANDLE YOU.
"HANDLE" ME?
TOY WITH? MESS WITH? TAKE YOUR PICK.
I'LL PICK WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU OFF THE PAVEMENT!
CRASH!


HOLD IT, ANTOINE!
BUNNIE--!
OH, AH GOT THIS!
E-106 CODE NAME: ETA
WORP
BUNNIE CYBORG
NICELY DONE.
I WISH WE HAD CREAM AND BIG BACKING US UP, THOUGH...
TAILS! WE TOOK DOWN ETA AND WE'RE PRESSING ON TO THE CENTRAL TOWER. ARE YOU OKAY?
ANTOINE SWORDSMAN
SALLY LEADER
TAILS (PILOTING THE TORNADO)
JUST A SEC!
E-108 CODE NAME: IOTA
MULTIPLE TARGET LOCKS! GOTCHA!

PYEW!
PYEW!
PYEW!
SORRY FOR THE DELAY! IOTA IS DISABLED. YOU'VE STILL GOT THREE MORE CLOSING IN ON YOU--PLUS THE BADNIK HORDE!
I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT COVER FIRE I CAN!
BREAK'S OVER. READY?
SHO' NUFF.
CERTAINEMENT.
LET'S GO, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!


THE SKY PATROL
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BATTLE CARRIER
ZZZZZZ!
THE DEATH EGG
DR. EGGMAN'S FLYING FORTRESS
WE'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE?! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT THANK YOU, EGGMAN TECH!*
NICOLE, HOW ARE WE DOING?
ROTOR
MECHANIC
*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG VOLUME 1.
-WEAPONS POWER AT 10%
-PARTICLE BEAM CANNON, SONIC POWER CANNON, VOLKAN CANNON OFFLINE
-ANTI-AIR MISSILES DEPLETED
-OMOCHAO GUN JAMMED
-SHIELDS HOLDING
-ENGINE POWER AT 23%
-I'M FINE, BY THE WAY.
HA! GOOD TO KNOW. WE'LL HOLD OUT AS LONG AS WE CAN!
HA! OUR SHIELDS HAVE BARELY BEEN SCRATCHED!
YES, BUT THE BARRAGE AND ALL OUR WEAPONS FIRE IS DRAINING OUR RESERVES.
THE BOSS WILL BE ANGRY IF WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO REACH EGGMAN LAND.
ORBOT AND CUBOT
ROBO-LACKEYS

YIKES! YOU'VE GOT A POINT! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE IN A HOLDING PATTERN BECAUSE OF THEIR ENGINE DAMAGE.
I'LL PLOT OUT WHERE THEIR NEXT PASS SHOULD BE AND FOCUS ALL OUR FIRE...
...NOW!
BLAM!
BWOOSH!
ANY LANDING YOU CAN WALK AWAY FROM...
NICOLE... I HOPE YOU'RE OKAY WITH SERVERS ON RESERVE POWER...

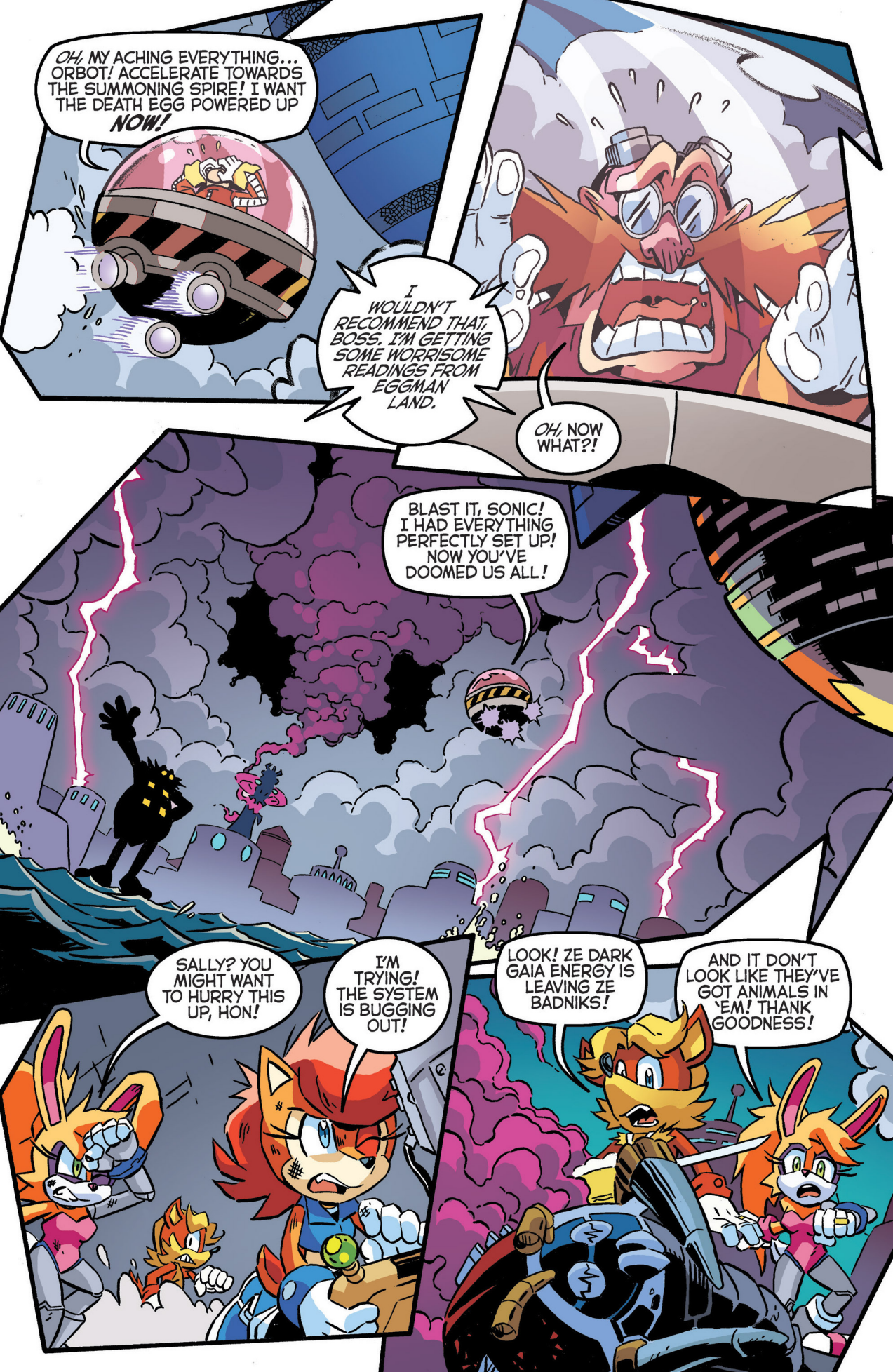
INSIDE THE GAIA COLOSSUS...
tink!
NRRRRGH! I HATE THIS! SONIC NEEDS MY HELP! THE GAIA COLOSSUS IS SUPPOSED TO SAVE THE WORLD...
CHIP THE LIGHT GAIA
"...NOT DESTROY IT!"
OKAY... OW.
EGGMAN KEEPS CUTTING ME OFF SO I CAN'T GET TO CHIP. BUT I CAN'T HIT THAT MECH HARD ENOUGH. I NEED TO...
HA HA HA! GOTCHA!

IT'S BEEN A DELIGHTFUL BATTLE, SONIC. BUT NOW I WIN.
I TAKE OVER THE WORLD.
YOU WISH.
AND YOU DIE!

WHOA-
WHOA-
WHOA!
STAY
AWAY!
BWOOSH!
SCREE
EECH

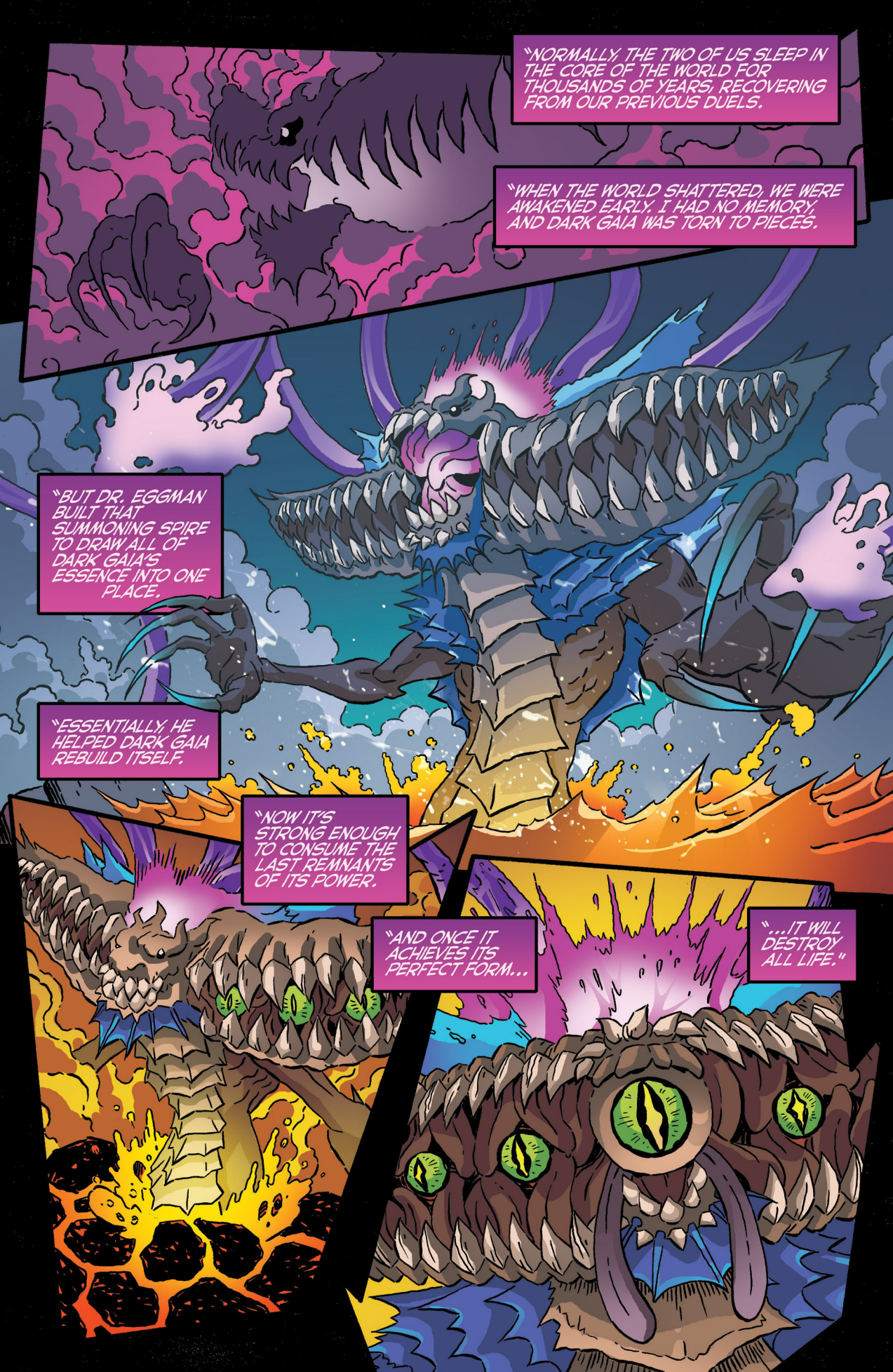
AUGH!
WHAM!
WHAM!
NONO NONONO NONO!
NOOOOOO OOOOOOOO OOOOOOO...!

NEXT STOP-- CHIP!
BOOM
HEY, BUDDY! MISS ME?
SONIC! I WAS SO WORRIED!
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU ALREADY? THE GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN!
OH, JUST YOU WAIT! NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE CHAOS EMERALDS, I CAN--
YEAH-- WELL-- YOU SURE MADE IT INTENSE!
HRRRRR RRGH?!
SONIC?! SONIC-- WHAT'S WRONG?


OH, MY ACHING EVERYTHING... ORBOT! ACCELERATE TOWARDS THE SUMMONING SPIRE! I WANT THE DEATH EGG POWERED UP NOW!
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THAT, BOSS. I'M GETTING SOME WORRISOME READINGS FROM EGGMAN LAND.
OH, NOW WHAT?!
BLAST IT, SONIC! I HAD EVERYTHING PERFECTLY SET UP! NOW YOU'VE DOOMED US ALL!
SALLY? YOU MIGHT WANT TO HURRY THIS UP, HON!
I'M TRYING! THE SYSTEM IS BUGGING OUT!
LOOK! ZE DARK GAIA ENERGY IS LEAVING ZE BADNIKS!
AND IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'VE GOT ANIMALS IN 'EM! THANK GOODNESS!

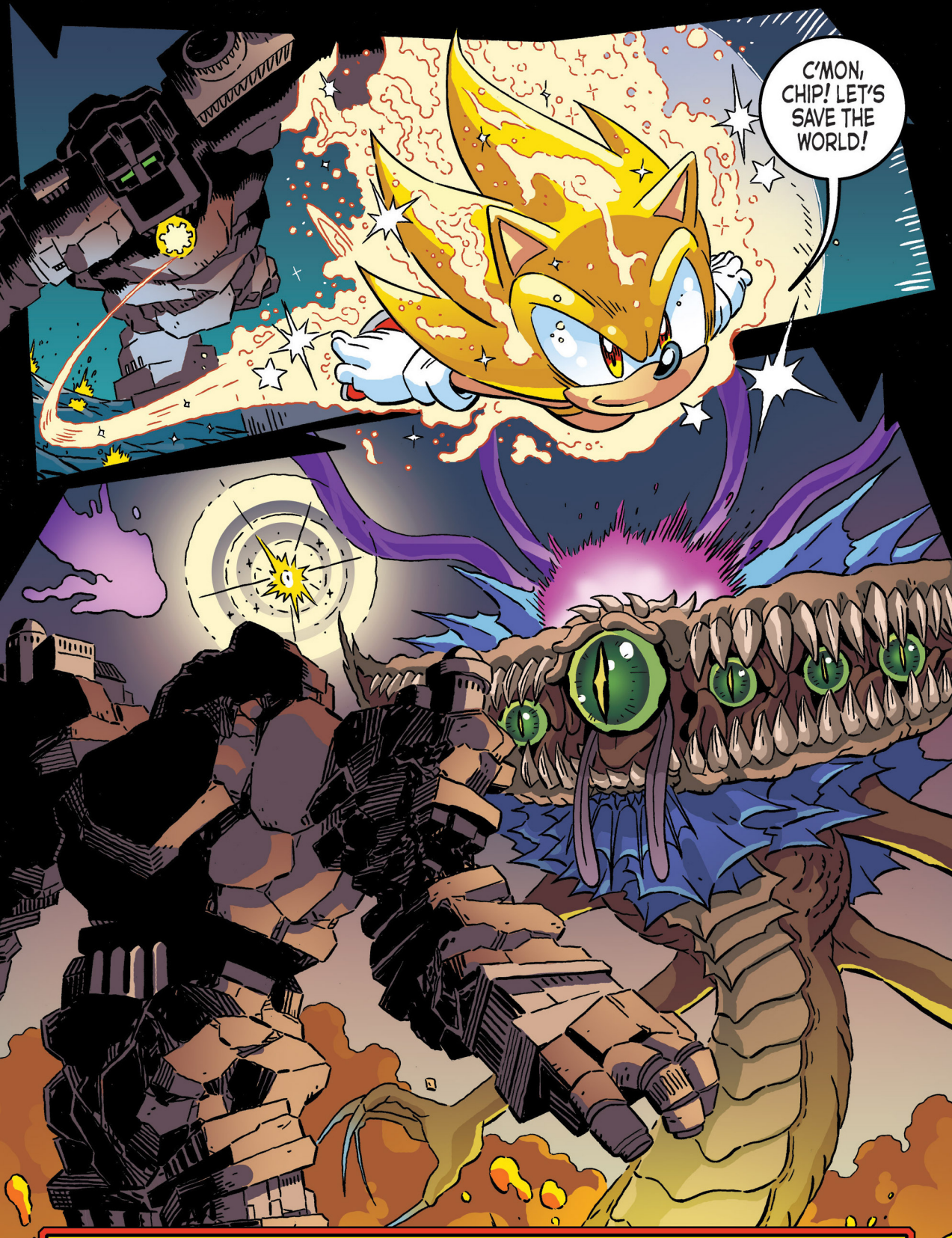
SALLY! THE CITY IS BREAKING APART! WE--
KRA-KOOM!
YIPE! I'M COMING IN TO PICK YOU UP!
WE'RE NOT DONE YET! WE'VE GOT TO DISABLE THIS SPIRE BEFORE--!
SZZZKT!
YOW!
IT'S TOO LATE! WE GOTTA GO--NOW!

RR RRR RAAA AAAA AUGH H--!
EASY THERE, SONIC. I--I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW. THE DARK GAIA ESSENCE IS LEAVING YOU. Y-YOU'LL BE OKAY.
=HUFF= GREAT. WHY NOW?
...BECAUSE IT'S CALLING THE LAST LITTLE BITS HOME.
"IT"? YOU MEAN...?
YES. DARK GAIA HAS AWAKENED.


"NORMALLY, THE TWO OF US SLEEP IN THE CORE OF THE WORLD FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, RECOVERING FROM OUR PREVIOUS DUELS.
"WHEN THE WORLD SHATTERED, WE WERE AWAKENED EARLY. I HAD NO MEMORY, AND DARK GAIA WAS TORN TO PIECES.
"BUT DR. EGGMAN BUILT THAT SUMMONING SPIRE TO DRAW ALL OF DARK GAIA'S ESSENCE INTO ONE PLACE.
"ESSENTIALLY, HE HELPED DARK GAIA REBUILD ITSELF.
"NOW IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO CONSUME THE LAST REMNANTS OF ITS POWER.
"AND ONCE IT ACHIEVES ITS PERFECT FORM...
"...IT WILL DESTROY ALL LIFE."

IT'S OVER. I'VE FAILED.
WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THAT? WE'RE STILL STANDING. IT AIN'T OVER YET!
JUST THINK OF ALL THE PEOPLE WE'VE MET! ALL THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GIVE UP ON ALL OF THAT--ALL OF *THEM?*

I...I USE THE GAIA COLOSSUS TO BATTLE IT INTO SUBMISSION...
...THEN SEAL US BOTH AWAY SO THE WORLD CAN START OVER.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! SO...WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO AGAINST TALL, DARK AND UGLY?
YOU'RE RIGHT! I--I CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!
BUT IT CAN TAKE CENTURIES! THAT ISN'T FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE EVERYONE!
HEH-- "FAST"? I GOTCHA COVERED.
SCHMAHN!



This is IT! The Final Battle between LIGHT and DARK!
Super Sonic and Chip's GAIA COLOSSUS vs. PERFECT DARK GAIA!
The "SHATTERED WORLD SAGA" ends next time in Sonic the Hedgehog!
DON'T MISS OUT ON MORE ACTION IN *SONIC UNIVERSE*, *SONIC SUPER DIGEST* AND THE *GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!*

Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that delivers hype right to your door! *(only 3 easy payments of 995 gold rings plus shipping and handling)*

If you ever wondered how those ice cream pops were made...

I see it, I see it, and now it's all within my reach!

The end is near! Dark Gaia has reached its perfect form and now it's up to Sonic and Chip to put it back in its place!

Until then, let's give some major props to Diana Skelly and Adam Bryce Thomas for their great work on "Panic in the Sky" part 3! And be sure to check out more of Adam's pencil work in current issues of *Sonic Universe*. Enjoy a little preview from "Shattered" part 4 in SU #90 below!

(insert evil laughter here)

That's all for this column, see y'all next time for the big finale! Chao!

– **Vincent "Vin" Lovallo**
Editor

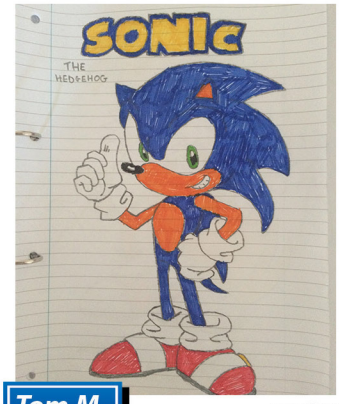
Both Diana and Adam got to draw epic Sonic transformations this issue! WINS ALL AROUND!

SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG

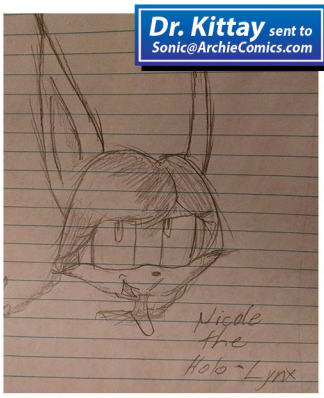
SONIC GRAMS FAN ART

Salva P. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Payton D. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Tom M. from UK



Dr. Kittay sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

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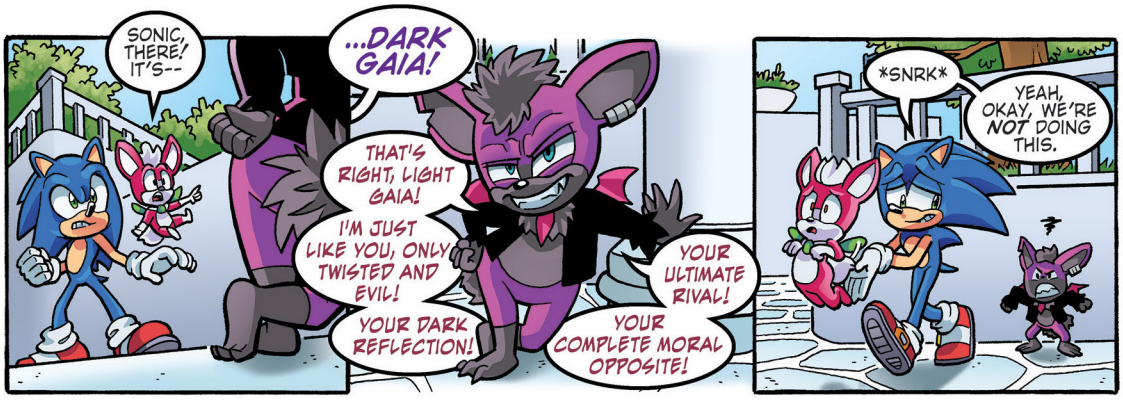
OFF PANEL

I found you, faker! OR PREPARE FOR TROUBLE: IT'S CHIP'S EVIL DOUBLE!



SCRIPT: *ALEAH BAKER* PENCILS: *EVAN STANLEY* INKS: *GARY MARTIN* COLORS: *ELAINA UNGER*

NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 287